

MONDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2020 | ISSUE 136 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

# PM: I AM TIRED OF ASOT MICHAEL



Prime Minister Gaston Browne, left, is fed up with the behavior of Member of Parliament Asot Michael, right. *See story on Page 3*

**Page 4: Pandemic devours  
two years of hotel profits**

# Gov't to speed up land sales

Persons who have been waiting to purchase land from the government will soon be able to do so.

This is because the government has pledged to speed up the preparation of lands for sale to the public.

"We are accelerating the preparation of lands for sale to the public. Three government agencies will

be involved; the National Housing Development and Urban Renewal Company, the Central Housing and Planning Authority and the Ministry of Agriculture," a top government official reported.

He said the government will be making 'a significant amount of lands' available for sale shortly to satisfy a growing demand for land by residents.

The official noted that the demand for government land continues to grow as everyone wants 'a piece of the rock' so that they can build their own homes.

Additionally, the government official disclosed that available land will be sold starting at a cost of \$3.00 per square foot which is significantly lower than the cost per square foot of land sold by private interests.



## COMMUNITY NOTICES

### NATIONAL HONOURS NOMINATIONS

The deadline for submission of nominations for the 2020 National Honours is September 30th, 2020. Forms may be collected from the Office of the Governor General Monday to Thursday from 8am to 3pm and Friday from 8am to 1.30pm. Forms must be returned by 2pm latest on the day of the deadline. Nominations may also be submitted by email. Completed and signed forms with supporting documents can be returned electronically. Call 4620002/3/5 for details. Nominations made in 2018 and 2019 will also be considered this year and do not need to be resubmitted. All persons visiting the Office of the Governor General must comply with COVID-19 related protocols.

### WOMEN LEADERS

Young women who are interested in leadership aged 18 to 25 and living in Antigua and Barbuda, are being sought ahead of an upcoming conference. The Antigua and Barbuda Parliament in partnership with ParLAmericas will be hosting a "Young women in Leadership" conference through October and November 2020. Visit: [www.ciivil.org](http://www.ciivil.org) or call 462-4822 or 464-2705 for more information.

### AGS SUSPENDS AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES

In order to bring the Antigua Grammar School into full compliance with the Ministry of Education's Safety Protocols for the protection of staff and students from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, the general public is asked to take note that with immediate effect and until further notice, all non-educational after hours activities on the school's premises have been suspended. This includes sporting activities or meetings of any kind. Any inconvenience caused is regretted.

### WORK ON FRIARS HILL ROAD

Line marking works will continue in phase 1A between Cedar Grove Junction to Sincere Drive from September 21 to 27, Motorists are asked to exercise extreme caution while workers undertaking these works.

### ROAD CLOSURE

Road work will continue in phase 3F between St. John's Street and Cross Street. There are plans to undertake general earthworks and paving at the junction with YMCA. Local access is being maintained. Business owners, customers and residents seeking access to the area are asked to enter at the northern end of closure, the Dickenson Bay Street junction.

### ROADWORK ON SIR GEORGE WALTER HIGHWAY

Road work will continue in phase 2B between Micas Imports Ltd to Sir Sidney Walling Highway (Factory Rd) junction from Monday, September 21 to October 3, 2020. Local access will not suffer interruption. Business owners, customers and residents seeking access are asked to enter from the northern end of the closure from the Dees Service station (Rubis) junction.

Submit your community notices to [news@pointville.ag](mailto:news@pointville.ag)

DAY 9/28

31° Hi



Partly sunny with a thunderstorm

NIGHT 9/28

26° Lo



Partly cloudy with spotty showers late

### SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST  
5:57 AM

Sunset AST  
5:58 PM



Duration  
12:01 hr

### MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST  
4:19 PM

Moonset AST  
4:04 AM



Duration  
11:45 hr



## PM: I am tired of Asot Michael!

Member of Parliament, Asot Michael's continued 'bad boy' behaviour over the past weeks has triggered a sharp rebuke from Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

Michael was ordered out of Parliament on Friday over comments he made to Speaker of the House of Representatives, Sir Gerald Watt, on Thursday evening at the end of that day's session. Just a few days before, Michael was rebuked by the Bar Association for what many saw as an attack on the judiciary over comments he made regarding Chief Magistrate, Joanne Walsh.

Sir Gerald said he was abused by the member in 'a most despicable manner' and asked him to leave until his matter has been referred to a Privilege Committee of the House soon to be established under the new rules.

Appearing on the Browne and Browne show on Pointe FM, PM Browne said he wants the people of Antigua and Barbuda to fully understand his position regarding the St Peter representative. "It is important that the people know my position. Asot Michael is constantly in problems with someone and I am tired of his incessant bad behavior, and his

indiscipline. Asot Michael is out of control and I am distancing myself as the leader of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party from his conduct," he declared.

The prime minister added that he is aware that there are some who have been encouraging Michael. "I have a word for those who may be supporting him; I have a country to run and I will do so without fear or favour. No one is above the ABLP. No one is above the interest of the people of Antigua and Barbuda. No friendship is above my duties to the country," he stated.

The ABLP leader and prime minister noted that the party has a Constitution and he told Michael unequivocally; abide by the Constitution of leave!

PM Browne reported that Michael appeared on another radio station while he was doing his own programme, to indicate that he may contest the next general elections as an independent candidate. "He will relieve us of a burden by



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

doing so. He has become a burden; a rotten burden and I have had enough of his shenanigans and his total indiscipline. Asot Michael is literally beyond redemption and as the leader of the ABLP I have had enough," PM Browne stated emphatically.

The ABLP leader also hinted that he may trigger the party's internal disciplinary mechanism to deal with the errant parliamentarian.



Member of Parliament, Asot Michael

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# Pandemic devours two years of hotel profits

**By Shelton Daniel**

Veteran local hotelier Alex Debritto has said that for a moment he thought he was reading a description of the situation in Antigua and Barbuda when he perused an article in the Jamaica Observer newspaper titled: Hoteliers ‘burning cash’ as COVID-19 wears them down; debt to local banks skyrockets ...

DeBritto was invited to comment on the article during Pointe FM’s new morning program Starting Pointe.

According to the Jamaica Observer article of September 23, that country’s “Hotel and Tourist Association (JHTA) is raising the alarm bells that hotels are burning cash to stay open, as the COVID-19 pandemic is wearing them down.”

It adds that, “The situation is compounded by the fact that the debt by hotels to local banks has skyrocketed to a whopping \$56 billion (J’can \$) as at March this year.”

The article quotes immediate JHTA past President Omar Robinson stating that, “Hoteliers have been burning cash by keeping their properties open with occupancy levels as low as 10 percent.”

Debritto is first vice-chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (AHTA), in addition to being first vice president for Valley Bay Resorts and Palm Island Resort in the Grenadines.

He expressed full agreement with Robinson that operating hotels at occupancy levels between 10 to 30 percent is a long way from what’s required to be profitable, and a far cry from what might be considered a return to normalcy in the sector.

“The situation in Antigua is very similar. We have a little bit of an advantage because our hotel properties tend to be smaller and I believe that will help our restart or recovery time. We are in a very difficult situation – everybody – hotel companies, our teams, our staff, managers, everybody; it’s been like this since the beginning of April. We’ve burned all the cash we had, and the profits we made in the last two years are gone,” he stated grimly.

DeBritto said local hotels are slowly trying to reopen, “But it is very difficult, because the market is still jumping around.”

Explaining what that meant, he said, “Some weeks we have bookings and then we have cancellations. At the end of the month, we have as much cancellations as we have reservations, so we are back to square one again.”

Debritto said he could not tell how many hotels would reopen. He said the AHTA “is very concerned that if you look strictly at the financial part of it, it doesn’t make any sense to open right now.”

But he said the hotels were determined to remain positive and optimistic, which was the reason some of them – including his own – would begin reopening in October, despite what he termed “these very, very low occupancies”.

DeBritto said one of the reasons for the hotels braving this poor outlook was that they felt it was “time to bring our workforce back to work slowly”, despite knowing that “it will not be the same as when we closed.”

Further emphasizing the bleak prognosis, DeBritto said he does not expect to ever again see tourism return to its



*Alex Debritto*

former state of about two or three years ago. He said his management team is aware there will need to be “serious salary cuts” so that the re-openings can be effected with the least possible quantum of losses.

“But if we don’t open, our staff will be left without work. Also the tour operators and people who booked will lose confidence in us and in our destination – and then the airlines will have no reason to fly to Antigua and Barbuda.”

He said that was the reason for some hoteliers, like himself, deciding to take a risk while “looking for financial solutions to at least open and see if this is going to improve or not in the next few months. If we don’t open now, it means we must wait until next year, October-November.”

DeBritto added that the challenge was made even steeper by increased costs “for just about everything”. He said he hoped everyone in the business had a clear idea of what they were getting into with reopening.

“My wish is that government and the private sector continue to understand each other, as this is a very tough time for our country, for the industry and for the entire world.”



## COVID-19 cases crack 100 mark

The number of cases of the COVID-19 virus that have been confirmed in Antigua and Barbuda have passed the 100-mark.

According to the latest information released by the Ministry of Health the official count is now one hundred and one (101) cases. This follows the return of the latest batch of test results from the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) which revealed three new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Friday 25th September, 2020 at 6pm.

The ministry is reporting that the three confirmed cases were among a batch of one hundred and sixty-six samples that were sent off for testing late last week. "Of the one hundred and sixty-six samples which were sent to CARPHA, three returned positive while one hundred and sixty-three were negative. Investigations are ongoing," the ministry said in a release.

It added that consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is one hundred and one with six active cases.

The dashboard has been updated to reflect these changes.

There is a renewed call for all in society to adhere to the health protocols as mandated by the ministry

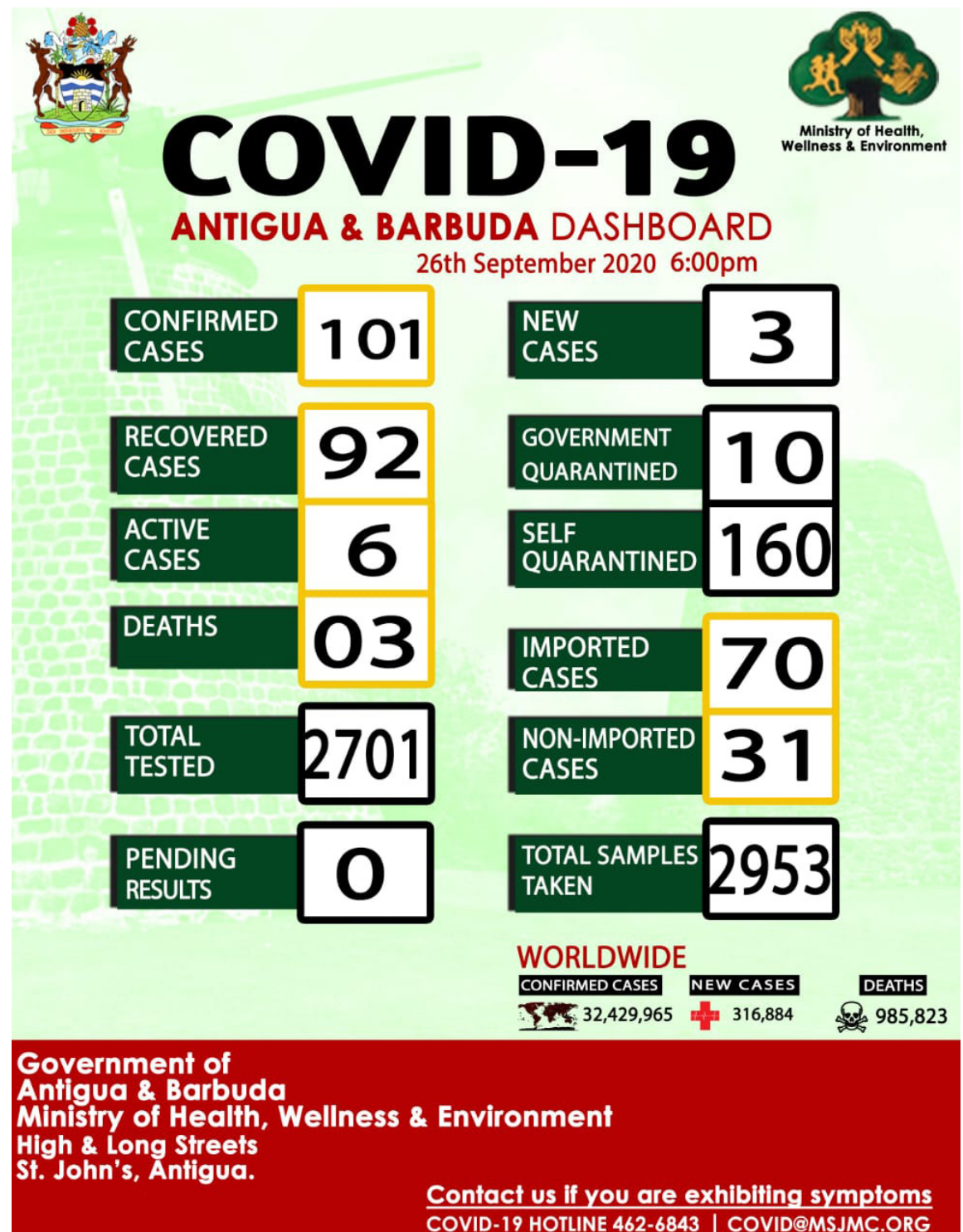
as the confirmed cases have jumped by six within the space of eight days.

Last week, several departments of government where either forced to close or to operate on reduced staff due to the latest outbreak. More than two hundred individ-

uals were forced to go into quarantine as a result.

A senior government official said the Cabinet is 'quite concerned' at this latest development as no one is quite sure whether or not it represents 'community spread'.

The official revealed that when the first three cases came to light last week, it was reported that it was caused by a returning national who had a relationship with an individual and who later spread the virus to others.



## Banks to extend moratorium

Residents who are encountering financial difficulties because of the coronavirus pandemic will get a further ease as commercial banks have agreed to extend the moratorium on loans for up to a year.

This follows an agreement between the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) and the ECCU Bankers' Association announced recently.

In a statement, both the ECCB and the Bankers' Association disclosed that a careful review of the current circumstances in relation to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic was conducted leading to a revision of the support programme aimed to reduce the anxiety that some cus-

### Financial Institutions and Eastern Caribbean Central Bank Offer Extended Support to Customers



tomers and residents continue to experience over the loss of income due to the pandemic.

Earlier in the year, banks across the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union instituted a moratorium programme to assist customers

who have experienced hardships due to the pandemic.

In Antigua and Barbuda, hundreds of individuals welcomed the programme as they may have either lost their job or suffered a reduction in their income.

Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, said the government welcomes the decision by the ECCB and the banks to extend the programme.

"Back in March we had called in the commercial banks as a government expressing to them our desire for them to offer these moratoria to their various customers, business and personal.

"They responded. So between [hem], the ECCB and the ECCU Bankers Association have agreed to extend these moratoria to customers," Browne reported.

With no improvement in the economic situation in these countries, however, the ECCB and the Bankers' Association agreed to extend the moratorium for six months with the possibility of an additional extension of up to a year.

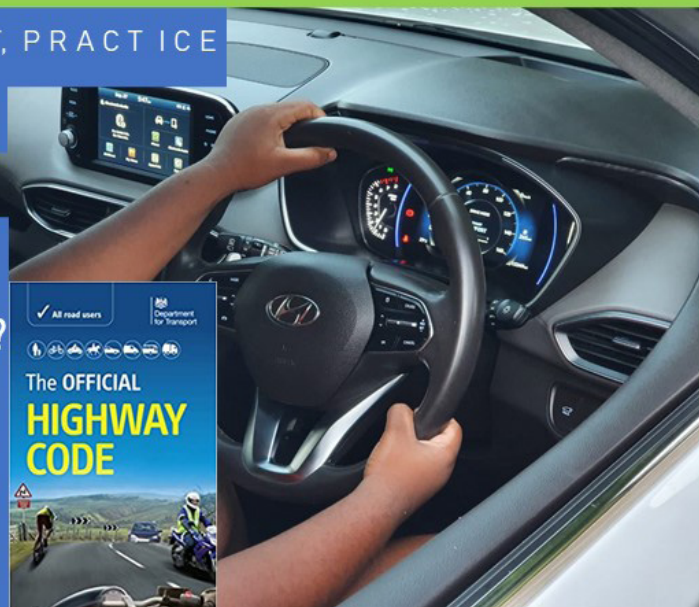
Customers may request to restructure their loans at the end of the moratorium.

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# Antigua & Barbuda United Nations engagements continue this week

Antigua and Barbuda's participation in the annual meetings of the United Nations General Assembly continues this week with another series of high-level discussions planned.

Last Friday, Prime Minister Gaston Browne addressed the world body outlining his government's position on the several matters of importance before the UN during this its 75th anniversary. He was critical of the UN for not living up to its promises made when the body was formed back in 1945.

"At each of the past 74 sessions of this General Assembly, many pledges have been made, to make the international community less inequitable; many commitments have been given

to lift-up the poor and the vulnerable; and many declarations have been issued to end the scourge of war.

Yet, in the 74 years that have passed since the first session of this General Assembly, on 10th January 1946, the world has experienced only brief efforts to deliver these pledges, commitments, and declarations," he observed.

He noted that never before, has the world had such ample technical and financial resources to address the challenges facing all mankind, including the ravages of Climate Change, pandemics, food security, malnutrition, hunger and poverty.

"The problem is that these resources are concentrated in the capitals of a few nations, which have retreated

from contributing to meet those challenges and to overcome them for the good of all humanity.

"As this Assembly is held, developing countries - particularly small states - are trapped, in a downward spiral of economic decline and environmental degradation which they did not create, and over which they have no control," he explained.

Browne suggested that the future countries should want requires the establishment of a new era of multilateralism, based on the premise that the life of every human being matters.

"Every human being should be given the opportunity to prosper - free from intimidation, hunger, malnutrition  
*cont'd on pg 9*



**IN LOVING MEMORY**

Those special memories of you Will always bring a smile,  
 If only we could have you back, For just a little while.  
 Then we could sit and talk again Just like we used to do.  
 You always meant so very much And always will do too,  
 The fact that you are no longer here, Will always cause us pain,  
 But you're forever in our hearts Until we meet again.

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**  
*Errol Thwaites*  
 late of Bethesda Village who  
 departed this life four years ago on **25th September, 2016.**  
 Ever to be remembered by his siblings, Sylvia, Pam, Lynette, Kenneth,  
 Andrea and Audwin. His nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles and his many  
 family members. May his soul continue to rest in peace.

## APUA ELECTRICITY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

These planned outages are necessary for our continuous upgrade and maintenance programme to provide reliable and consistent service to our customers.

Date: Monday 28th September 2020  
 Time: 8:00 am - 11:30 am  
 Affected areas: Eastern section of Herberts

Date: Wednesday 30th September 2020  
 Time: 8:00 am - 11:30 am  
 Affected areas: Section of Jennings new extension

Date: Thursday 1st October 2020  
 Time: 8:00 am - 11:30 am  
 Affected areas: Section of Buckleys

Date: Thursday 1st October 2020  
 Time: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm  
 Affected areas: Camacho Avenue

Date: Friday 2nd October 2020  
 Time: 8:00 am - 11:30 am  
 Affected areas: Section of Seaview near former Jehovah's Witness branch office

Date: Friday 2nd October 2020  
 Time: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm  
 Affected areas: Section of Cades Bay

Kindly note that this schedule is subject to slight variation. Changes will be communicated on the APUA Facebook page.

Any service disruptions outside of this schedule were not anticipated. For further information and updates please call 311.





*cont'd from pg 8*

tion, disease and war.

Our nations - united - should affirm their commitment to that goal and work diligently to achieve it.

"That is the United Nations we need," he declared.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday, PM Browne will again address the UN on a round-table discussion on the topic: Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the era of COVID-19 and beyond.

This high-level meeting will bring together Heads of State and Government and representatives of international organizations,



*The United Nations Headquarters*

the private sector and civil society to consider policy options for recovering from the current crisis in the short term.

It will also seek to mobilize the financial resources

and sustainability of countries and the global financial architecture in the long term.

At a summit on biodiversity on Wednesday, Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P.

Chet Greene, will present Antigua and Barbuda's statement on the theme: Urgent action on biodiversity for sustainable development.

Greene will also address the 25th anniversary conference of the Fourth World Conference on Women on the theme: Accelerating the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

On Thursday, PM Browne will again address the UN. This time he will deliver an address to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.



WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY...

*David Kelsick*

The Directors, Management and Staff of the Antigua & Barbuda Social Security Board (ABSSB) extends sincerest condolences to the family of the late Mr. David Kelsick.

Mr. Kelsick served as the second Director of the ABSSB from June 1973 – October 1976. Twenty-eight years later, he was appointed on 1 May 2004 as the Chairman of the fifth Board of Directors [2004 - 2008].

Mr. Kelsick was of the view that every citizen of Antigua & Barbuda should consider it a privilege to be a contributor of the Social Security Fund.

As Chairman of the Board, he saw it as his personal responsibility to protect the Social Security Fund. However, what was of utmost importance to him was "the Right to information about the workings of the Social Security Fund", which led to the publication

'Three Decades of Social Security: 1973 – 2005'. May his soul Rest in Perpetual Peace.





# Police, prison officers complete senior administrators course

Sixteen police officers and one prison officer graduated from the Sir Wright F. George Police Academy, at the end of a Senior Police/Prison Administrators Course, SPAC.

The course covered a wide range of topics including, Corruption in Public Office, Human Rights, Critical Thinking, Effective Communication, Use of Force Policy, Effective Leadership and Change Management.

The objective of the training was to further develop senior officers within their organizations, to adapt to changing trends and to be in a position to provide better leadership and quality



*Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Public Safety and Labour, Stacey Gregg-Paige*

service to the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

In the feature address at



*Police Commissioner, Atlee Rodney*

the passing out ceremony, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Public Safety

and Labour, Stacey Gregg-Paige, indicated that the officers should be better equipped as leaders to continue the process of change within their organizations.

She further stated that the quality of training should bring about a balance in their professional lives, especially with regard to the manner in which they deal with members of the public and their colleagues.

Police Commissioner, Atlee Rodney, in his remarks congratulated the officers for completing the course. He urged them to remain focused and to continue the self-development process thus paving the way for successful advancement within the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda.

## VACANCY

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# Tourism ministry sets up compliance unit

A new unit has been set up within the Ministry of Tourism to ensure that hotels comply with the health protocols established by the Ministries of Health and Tourism.

A team composed of staff from various tourism departments whose original job functions may have been curtailed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, have been trained and redeployed as Compliance Officers who will make constant checks on properties which have been certified.

According to the Policy and Planning Director, St. Clair Soleyn, "The unit is divided into two teams consisting of four people who will be deployed according to districts and approximately five properties will



be inspected daily."

The process will continue until the World Health Organization indicates that the threat of the pandemic has subsided.

"The certification and compliance process is going to be cyclic as there is currently a growing room stock of persons who have private homes and rooms that are placed on platforms such as Air BnB and we have to ensure that they conform to the general set of standards as the larger properties," the Director said.

Appoy Robinson, Environment and Hotel Standards Officer in the Ministry of Tourism and Investment and Coordinator of the Compliance Unit, said following the assessments, properties found to

be non-compliant will be notified and recommendations will be made for improvement.

He said subsequent checks will be conducted and any property still in breach of the guidelines and protocols could have their certification to operate revoked.

Owners and operators of all small and large hotel properties, including Air BnB hosts with stand alone units, desirous of recommencing business are asked to register for inspection and certification for operation with The Ministry of Tourism and Investment.

Over two hundred (200) properties have been certified and approved for operations in Antigua & Barbuda since the country's borders reopened on June 1st.



Antigua and Barbuda Immigration Department

## IMMIGRATION CLOSURE AND RELOCATION

The Department of Immigration wishes to advise the General Public of the "CLOSURE" of its **Head Office** located at long and Thames Street **on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2020.**

The closure is to facilitate the move to its new location at the **Sealy Building on Sir George Walter Highway.**

Applicants with existing appointments scheduled for the stipulated dates for closure, will be re-scheduled and assisted accordingly.

For questions and queries, the Department can be contacted at **562-1010/7883/1389/1387.**

The Department of Immigration apologizes for any inconvenience caused and takes this opportunity to thank the general public for its patience and understanding.

We look forward to serving you in our usual professional and proficient manner at our new location.



# COVID-19: A catalyst for entrepreneurship Series:



## Bacchanal Sauce: Bringing the hot sauce elixir to the culinary bank

**By Angelica O'Donoghue**

Moving home to Antigua and Barbuda after living abroad can sometimes present challenges. It is often not as simple as booking a ticket and waving goodbye to the country in which you built a life.

In 2020, plans to return home for any reason are further complicated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is the predicament encountered by this week's featured entrepreneur.

Sonya Samuel is one of the most talented and well decorated culinary entrepreneurs in urban New York. An Antiguan, Sonya accepted the challenge of sharing her West Indian food influences by creating one of a kind sauces and culinary pieces.

Sonya is the creator of 'Bacchanal Sauce', an original pepper sauce that quickly gained the nickname 'the party starter'.

Sonya explained that she created the one-of-a-kind Caribbean inspired hot

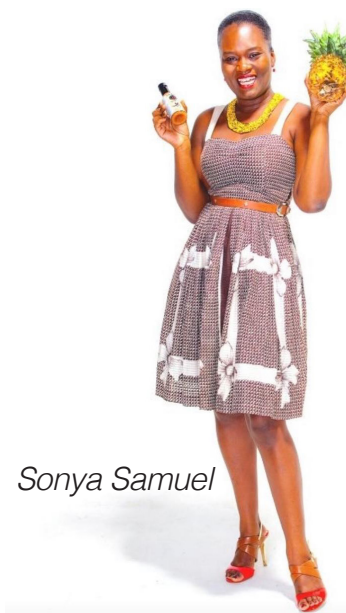


sauce as a part time passion project while working full time as an e-commerce communications director in New York.

After realizing the potential of her Bacchanal Sauce, however, she took a risk and walked away from her 9 - 5 job to focus on her blossoming business.

"Within the last couple of years, it has grown to include not only additional sauces, jams, wedding, and event favors but also a wonderful fast/casual Caribbean food concept.

I created custom pepper sauce favors



*Sonya Samuel*

for the 2018 Antigua and Barbuda Independence Gala in New Rochelle NY celebrating Vivian Richards, Curtley Ambrose, and all our cricket legends. In addition, I was the winner of the Citi-bank Urbanspace Challenge in New York, a creative competition focused on stand out culinary entrepreneurs," Sonya revealed.

The entrepreneur explained that these opportunities allowed her to operate her restaurant in the heart of Manhattan with a menu that shares Antiguan and Barbudan dishes like Ducana and Saltfish. The creative Caribbean fusion menu also features dishes including Jerk Crab Fries and Escovitch Fish Tacos sipced with her distinctive pepper sauces.

Samuel stated, "Simultaneously I also ran a brick-and-mortar pop-up restaurant in Brooklyn showcasing more Caribbean food culture."

Though her business was reaping the benefits of her hard work and creativity, the unfortunate passing of her aunt

*cont'd on pg 13*



*cont'd from pg 12*

caused her to return home to Antigua to be with family and friends. She also used the time at home to expand the business and seek out new opportunities for growth within the region.

So what exactly prompted a communications expert to venture into the culinary business? Sonya explained that her love for food and large family gatherings were the major factors which encouraged her decision to jump right into the peppery pot.

"The inspiration behind starting the business was my love of food. Growing up within a large family and being influenced by the sights and smells of wonderful ingredients. My grandfather, Winston Luke, was an amazing farmer winning farmer of the year several times and I think I cultivated a deep love for flavor always being surrounded by nature's bounty. My older cousin, Denley Simon, is somewhat of an agriculture phenom so watching him graft mangoes and call out tropical fruits and vegetables made me think about how I could highlight them. Another catalyst was Brooklyn cook-offs, one of which was a hot sauce throw down. I decided to bring my Antiguan sensibilities and Caribbean

flair to the table and a pepper seed of an idea was born," the business owner said.

Although her business is now kitchen-based and self-funded, Sonya indicated that she did need financing. She added that a lot of 'boot-strapping and creative crowd-funding' were also necessary to finance her journey.

The food and beverage industry, like many other areas of business, has suffered tremendously as a result of the financial fallout of COVID-19. Bacchanal Sauce was no exception.

According to Sonya, after returning home, she delved straight into vending opportunities which opened up at the Piango (Mango) Fest, Curlfest, and the Artisan Antigua Travelling Market at the Yacht Club in English Harbour. This experience, she explained, was wonderful as it allowed her to partner with local farmers and use fresh fruits and vegetables grown on the island in her home-made sauces.

"I was truly inspired, then COVID hit. It got increasingly difficult to still ship my condiments within the US as COVID impacted my mobility and caused me to have to reevaluate and pivot the business. Breakfast is my favorite meal of the day and coming from Brooklyn which is a huge brunch city I started doing social distanced Friday to pick up only brunches along with pick-up hot pepper sauce orders.

Customers can get stand-outs like fried chicken and waffles with pineapple rum sauce, Caramel Pancakes with strawberry sorrel com-



pote, Lavish Seafood Frittata, along with a list of rotating mouth-watering menu items. I also do drop off catering for events such as birthday parties or baby showers where customers can have a customized brunch spread or box for their special day" Sonya said.

She also admitted that there has been growing competition within her niche, but added that there is space for everyone as they each have a unique perspective.

"Also with the view that no one can truly offer the Bacchanal Sauce experience I am both inspired and proud to see others enter the space," Samuel said.

As for the expansion of her business, Sonya says while there are definitely plans for the future, they are on hold for now as she continues to focus on her Friday morning breakfast menu which she is confident is one of the best on the market.

"I definitely see my business expanding in the future. I'm really focused on ramping up production of the sauces. My goal is for it to be a worldwide name in the future. For the here and now, customers at home here in Antigua have been asking for my more lunch focused options such as my tamarind chicken bowl, shrimp fries, and one of a kind salt fish skewers, so I might add another pick-up day. Prior to COVID, I was looking into



a physical space for the business here in Antigua however with COVID still in play there are a lot of things to consider," she shared.

Sonya also indicated that for now, her business is mostly a one woman show with the help of her family.

"I want to thank my mother, Patricia Luke Martin, my aunt, Ruperta Luke Francis, and my entire family for their words of wisdom and assistance while forging ahead back at home. Although I feel like I have far to go, I routinely get DMs and messages from other Caribbean nationals and young African Americans asking for advice and simply letting me know they are inspired by me. It is indeed humbling. Here at home, I have been able to assist one person with employment as he has been laid off by a local hotel due to COVID. I hope to make a larger impact on employment in the coming months as I settle in back home," Samuel indicated.

In closing, Sonya had some sage words of advice for other budding business owners.

"Keep on going and trust your unique intuition. With a creative mindset, a wonderful opportunity will always blossom!"



## Dental Implants!

What are the benefits of dental implants over other treatments? Why are dental implants often the better choice and a standard of care compared to other options to restore missing or damaged teeth?

- Next best thing to healthy, natural teeth. Strong and stable, a dental implant restores a lost tooth so that it looks, feels, fits and functions like a natural tooth. Other options can lead to bone deterioration, and may interfere with eating, smiling, speaking and other activities of everyday life.

- Built to last. Dental implants are a long-term solution.

- Enjoy life without worrying about your teeth! No need to stay home or feel uncomfortable in public, embarrassed because your smile looks different, or worrying that missing teeth will limit your ability to join in the fun or that removable dentures

- Retain your natural face shape, and smile. A face without teeth can sag and appear sunken and sad. Dental implants allow you to maintain the natural shape of your face and smile.

- Protect healthy bone. Leaving empty spaces in your mouth after losing one or more teeth can lead to additional health issues, such as the loss and deterioration of some of your jawbone. When it is not being used to support a natural tooth, the jawbone deteriorates,

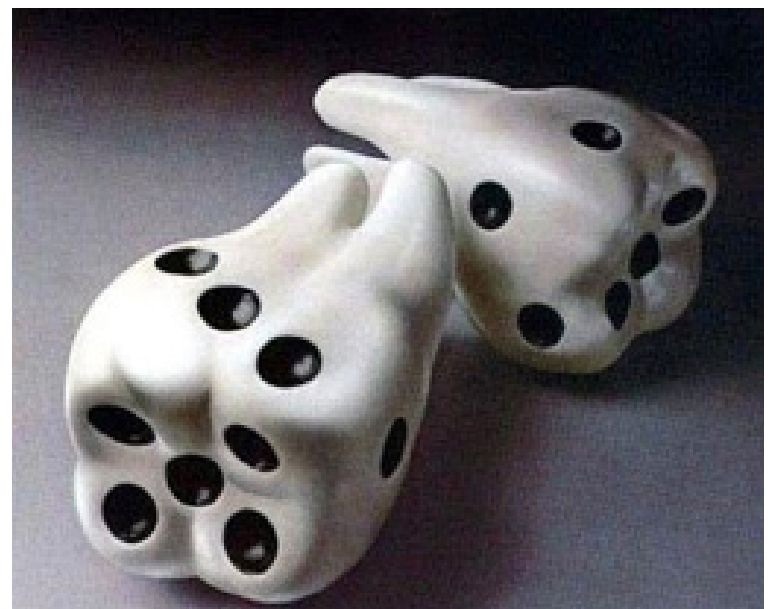
losing its strength and firmness. Dental implants are the only dental restoration option that preserves and stimulates natural bone, actually helping to stimulate bone growth and prevent bone loss.

- Keep your teeth in your mouth – not in a cup. Dental implants allow you to keep your teeth where they belong – in your mouth. And no more worrying that your dentures might slip or fall out. Brush, floss and care for teeth that have been replaced using dental implants exactly the way you would natural teeth – in your mouth.

- Speak easy. Adjusting to removable dentures can mean struggling to pronounce everyday words. Not so with dental implants, which function like natural teeth.

- Eat your favorite foods! Taste and enjoy the foods you love without hesitation. You can bite naturally, eat virtually anything you want and, unlike removable dentures that can feel uncomfortable, you can experience the full taste of the food you eat with dental implants, too.

- Look Mom, no cavities! Cavities can't occur in an implant-restored crown, or replacement tooth; however, you will need to visit your dentist as scheduled and clean and care for it and your gums and mouth every day, the same as you would if it were a natural tooth.



*Don't roll the dice with the care of your teeth!*

- Keep teeth in place – silently. Dentures may slip when you eat, talk, smile, laugh, kiss, yawn or cough, so that you have to “reposition” them back into place in the mouth. Dental implants are fixed in place and fuse naturally with your jawbone, meaning your replacement teeth won't move, click or shift.

- Protect your healthy teeth. Dental implants go in the jawbone, in the spot where your missing tooth root was, without impacting healthy teeth. They also help prevent healthy,

adjacent teeth from shifting as they would if an empty space were left for an extended period of time.

- More predictable than other repair and restoration methods. Dental implant treatment has a track record of reliable, long-term successful outcomes and is often considered “more predictable” than other treatments.

*Jammula&Associates*

*Antigua Dentistry*

562-4972/5972

Facebook:

*jammulaandassociates*

[www.antiguadentistry.com](http://www.antiguadentistry.com)



## Guyana: Toddler dies after drinking 'Molly'-laced milk

(Kaieteurnewsonline) A toddler died, yesterday at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) days after he reportedly ingested milk mixed with 'Molly', a street drug.

Dead is Ronaldo Dave, 2, of 'C' Field Sophia, Greater Georgetown.

Kaieteur News was told that the child was taken to GPHC on September 5, in a critical condition.

There, doctors discovered that the toddler's system had methamphetamine, an illegal drug commonly



known as 'Molly'.

The police were contacted and the child's aunt was detained for questioning and subsequently released.

According to Commander of 'A'

Division, Simon McBean, the woman had told investigators that her brother had mixed the drug in a glass of milk for his own consumption and left it on a table.

The toddler reportedly located the glass of milk and consumed it before his uncle returned.

Within minutes, the child fell unconscious and had to be rushed for immediate medical attention.

He was admitted in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) where he remained until he died.

## CBH PUBLIC HEALTH CORNER

### C.B.H Fun Facts 411

#### Word Search

#### Topic: Mosquito



The mosquito has four distinct stages in its life cycle: egg, larva, pupa and adult. The adult is an active flying insect, while the larvae and pupae are aquatic and occur only in water. Depending on the species, eggs are laid either on the surface of the water or are deposited on moist soil or other objects that will often be flooded.

m	b	l	a	c	k	e	g	g	l	o	b
x	o	d	a	e	a	l	x	a	h	j	r
w	b	s	y	t	c	e	a	z	a	b	o
y	i	o	q	l	l	t	u	m	y	l	m
l	t	g	s	u	b	r	k	u	a	o	e
i	e	i	e	d	i	e	h	r	e	o	l
h	r	p	t	a	v	t	v	d	g	d	l
s	t	o	u	r	h	a	o	c	y	v	e
i	p	q	s	p	e	w	d	g	p	u	g
f	e	t	a	b	a	h	f	s	t	v	s
a	e	d	e	s	o	e	k	r	i	o	k

Mosquitoes do through several stages. They can be killed by using different treatments. Can you find 15 words about us mosquitoes?



# Governor overrides Premier, invites British Navy to patrol BVI waters

(BVI News) Governor Augustus Jaspert has overridden the Premier to invite the British Royal Naval vessel HMS Medway, to help the local forces secure the territory's borders.

"As your governor, it is my constitutional responsibility to protect the people of BVI and ensure the security of these islands," Governor Jaspert said in a statement to the territory on September 25, 2020.

Section 81 of the BVI's constitution gives the governor reserved powers to make decisions without the approval of the House of Assembly, once it's deemed urgent.

Governor Jaspert said: "HMS Medway will shortly return to our waters to offer additional support with surveillance and act as a deterrent."

HMS Medway is designed for counter-piracy, anti-smuggling, fishery protection, and border patrol.

The vessel will stay in the BVI until the end of October and work alongside the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force and other members of the local Joint Task Force to support patrols and temporary radar arrangements in place.

The governor made it clear that the naval support will be fully funded by the UK government. He assured the BVI that, "the crew will not come on to land and will not meet Joint Task Force officers face-to-face in order to avoid any risks of transmitting the virus."

In a statement Friday evening, Governor Jaspert said he decided to invite UK assistance because border security is now more important than ever. He said he has remained in close contact with the National Security Council and the Joint Task Force who are finding it challenging to secure the borders with the limited resources they have.

"In March, we took decisive action to close the borders in response to



*Governor Augustus Jaspert*

COVID-19 and set up the Joint Task Force – made up of officers from the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force, the Immigration Department, and Her Majesty's Customs. Officers have worked 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with limited resources and under intense pressure," the governor said.

He continued by explaining that as the BVI relaxes internal restrictions, it needs "to ensure we are not hampering the progress we make by letting COVID-19 slip in illegally through the back door".

In August, Governor Jaspert informed the territory that when COVID-19 started to spread in the BVI, he offered to invite the UK to help bolster the territory's border security.

Premier Fahie has refused this help, saying accepting military assistance from the United Kingdom will be a last resort for the BVI.

In his latest statement to the territory, Governor Jaspert said he was disappointed that the offer was refused.

"I was disappointed that the offer of security support was not accepted at the time, as I felt it was a missed opportunity to enhance our local capability and protect our community from external risks. I have continually pressed this as a priority with colleagues. Now, in light of recent events and subsequent consequences, I feel I must do all in my power to protect the people of the Brit-

ish Virgin Islands and to support our dedicated law enforcement teams," the Governor said at the time.

Governor Jaspert said his office is currently preparing another offer of UK support to assist the BVI in curbing illegal smuggling.

"I know that people want BVI to be able to take care of its own affairs as much as possible. I understand and fully support this. Therefore, I am working to develop a package of support that will enhance our local capabilities and put in place more permanent surveillance systems to improve security and curb illegal smuggling. I will withhold from disclosing the full details, out of respect for National Security Council members, until plans are discussed and agreed."

He continued: "What I will say for now, is that we need to send a clear message to those involved in illegal activities and smuggling across our borders that it will not be tolerated. For every illegal landing on our shore, the risk of COVID-19 re-infecting our community returns. As long as our borders are porous, lives are in danger. I am not prepared to take that risk. Only those who benefit from illegal entries and illegal activities stand to gain from porous borders."

When Premier Fahie refused the governor's offer of UK assistance earlier this year, he had said he didn't want to make the same error as other territories or countries by signing off on a decision disguised as an act of assistance.

"Every time we have been pressured to accept military presence in the territory, we have been required to consider the social, historical and cultural aspects of this decision. And part of that includes our march towards self-reliance and self-determination," Premier Fahie had said.



## The urgency of transforming Caribbean tourism

(Barbados Today) World Tourism Day, celebrated on Sept. 27, comes at a sobering time for the Caribbean. Travel is unlikely to return to normalcy for another year, or even well into 2022. We need to make this a transformational moment to emerge from the pandemic stronger. We must move away from being merely tourist dependent. We need to harness the industry to make our islands safer, greener and more resilient.

Tourism has had a big but narrow economic impact. Big in that it is our main economic sustenance. Pre-pandemic it accounted for between 34 percent and 48 percent of GDP in The Bahamas, Barbados, and Jamaica. Aruba, Antigua and Barbuda and The Bahamas are the three most tourist-dependent economies in the world. Fourteen of the 15 most tourism dependent nations in the Americas are in the Caribbean.

But the impact is also narrow. Many tourists came in cruise ships and stayed for short periods. Or they stayed in properties on our beaches to enjoy the warm waters and golden sands. There is nothing wrong with this. Nature has blessed us with coastline beauty we can share with our visitors.

We can do much more, however, to make the experience for tourists richer, to the benefit of more Caribbean citizens.

Of course, in the short term, we must continue to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, by supporting individuals who have lost their incomes and protecting our productive assets so we can bounce back quickly. We need to have our hotels and restaurants ready when the visitors return. The staff who have been laid off will need training to engage our visitors in a different way.

We also need to be smart in how we reopen. Many small island states flattened and even crushed the infection curve through social distancing measures and travel restrictions, at a big cost

for our citizens, so countries are looking to reopen. This carries risks. Cases spiked in The Bahamas in July, when restrictions were relaxed. We need to base our reopening decisions on the prevalence of the virus in each source country and manage risks by insisting on either pre-testing before arrival or on-site testing upon arrival. Barbados has been particularly strong in implementing these risk management techniques.

At the same time, we can begin working on a new kind of tourism, more attuned to the future and to the needs of our island economies.

Indeed, environmental sustainability has to underpin any actions as we reinvent the sector. This is the lesson of Hurricane Dorian and so many others. The Galapagos Islands are looking to enhance the local sustainability of tourism by balancing ocean resources and human needs. This includes lengthening the stays of tourists to reduce the number of arrivals, producing more food locally and in sustainable ways, housing visitors in hotels that use renewable energy sources, and using boats that are powered by non-carbon fuels, among other measures.

A second key to the future of tourism is making it a much richer experience than beach trips. According to a consumer research by Euromonitor in 2019, four out of five American visitors would be interested in culture-based tourism. Visitors want to learn and interact more with local communities. They are eager to try local foods and enjoy adventures that become stories they can tell friends upon their return. Getting more visitors in communities generates new revenue sources for local business, enhances culture, community identity and pride. The Compete Caribbean Partnership Facility has worked with the Caribbean Tourism Organization to develop a toolkit for community-based tourism that appeals to the digitally-savvy, adven-



*Therese Turner-Jones is Manager of the Caribbean department for the Inter-American Development Bank.*

ture-seeker by providing easier access to authentic experiences.

An example of this kind of eco-tourist experience is happening at Walkers Reserve in Barbados, where the regeneration of the sand quarry aims will create recreational, sustainable agriculture, commercial and tourism opportunities for surrounding communities. Similarly, at Barbados' Coco Hill Forest, visitors learn about regenerative agriculture and organic farming in hiking treks, group planting activities and farm-to-table dining.

The Caribbean has natural resources for nature-based as well as culture-based solutions – scuba diving in the reefs, shark diving in The Bahamas, exploring the rich biodiversity of the forests in Trinidad and Tobago, to cite a few examples.

Several initiatives are looking to help make these riches more locally relevant. IDB Lab, in collaboration with the United Nations World Tourism Organization, has launched a challenge to support innovative technologies to bring new life to the tourism sector in 15 countries in Central America and the Caribbean. We have convened a movement to gather “moonshot” ideas that will transform the Caribbean, including for tourism.

I am confident these will be the seeds that add to an ecosystem of innovation and creativity that has marked our cultures. We have so much to offer to visitors and to the world. Let's turn this pandemic into an opportunity.

# Jamaica: Companies get \$4 billion tax write-off

(Jamaica Gleaner) Since 2018, the Government has written off approximately \$4 billion in taxes owed by 86 companies, including one entity which had \$1.5 billion in corporate income tax (CIT) arrears, a Sunday Gleaner probe has found.

The revelation comes as the Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (MSME) Alliance calls for write-offs to help its members cope with the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

But such calls come in the context of widening revenue gap for the Andrew Holness administration and news that about 46 per cent of companies are failing to pay their fair share of CIT. The \$4 billion is likely to be far higher when other tax types are factored in.

Some of the information came through an access to information request to Tax Administration Jamaica (TAJ), which stuck to its policy of not publishing the names of delinquent businesses.

In 2018, 54 companies benefited from the provision in the law which allows the commissioner of taxes to make recommendations for write-offs to the finance minister.

There were 19 such approvals totalling \$185 million in 2019, and for this year, 13 businesses have benefited so far.

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service told The Sunday Gleaner that the top five reasons for the \$4 billion in write-offs since 2018 were the inability of companies to pay; businesses closed without any assets; directors cannot be located, were terminally ill or have died; or companies bankrupt.

Debts older than 10 years and where the cost to collect is greater than the debt can be used as legal reasons to

forgive a company in arrears.

Some of the write-offs are part of the ongoing process of the TAJ to clear \$230 billion in uncollectible taxes in which private-sector companies may benefit if their arrears were before December 2010.

Tax write-offs in Jamaica are taking place in a more predictable and structured environment as a result of the legislation approved by Parliament in 2013.

The new regime sharply contrasted with the far more discretionary-based system that existed before in which tax forgiveness was heavily used as a political tool to extract leverage, a senior tax expert in the Office of the Prime Minister told The Sunday Gleaner.

"The big man could just call the minister and his bill would be settled," the official said.

The new regime was also driven by high rates of interests and penalties and difficulties collecting even after assessments, which created a drag on the authorities who needed a way to boost compliance and support business growth.

The TAJ, too, was buckling under the weight of old debts, which it needed to clear from its books to improve its revenue-collection reporting.

Additional information obtained in July shows that 5,583 out of the 12,203 of the CIT company taxpayers on TAJ's records are delinquents, with the Government taking various actions against some, including lawsuits.

The issue of write-offs as a public-driven stimulus to help companies and economies is taking on new life because of the financial fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Donovan Wignall, president of the



*Minister of Finance and the Public Service Dr Nigel Clarke.*

MSME Alliance, said his more than 300,000 entities "absolutely" need the write-offs.

"The revenues of businesses have really been shot," he said.

"People's ability to live up to their financial obligations has been severely impaired. Taxes represent a significant commitment on businesses, and one of the ways the Government could help alleviate some of the current stresses that small businesses have is to give some kind of tax write-offs," he continued, adding that there are ongoing discussions with the finance minister.

"The Government does have its obligations and they have done creditably during this period by providing some relief to businesses, but they can go a little further in assisting," Wignall said.

While not definitively saying Jamaica should go that route, the Inter-American Development Bank, one of country's key financial partners, said helping companies survive the pandemic shock "is crucially important, [especially] for a country as reliant on corporates and SMEs for output and employment".

But, the bank's country represen-

*cont'd on pg 19*



## CXC holding its ground on exams

(Barbados Today) The Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) is sticking to its guns.

CXC registrar and chief executive officer, Dr Wayne Wesley has defended the body's grading system and given his assurance that a "rigorous quality assurance mechanism" had been executed.

His comments come amidst scores of complaints from students across the region who took this year's Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE) and Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) and reported surprising results.

Minister of Education Santia Bradshaw had called for an urgent investigation to be carried out by CXC in response to those reports.

In a hastily called Zoom meeting this afternoon, Dr Wesley said he was confident CXC had done a good job in grading those papers.

"In the administration of our examination there is a rigorous quality assurance mechanism process that is executed. That quality assurance mechanism ensures that there are detail checks of every single subject with a detailed report and as is customary with the end of our assessment process that there are queries that will be made; that is why there is a window between preliminary results being released and final results being released.

"Those concerns that are raised we



*CXC Registrar and Chief Executive Officer, Dr Wayne Wesley*

will treat to and provide the requisite responses," Dr Wesley said.

However, he reiterated that there would be no investigation by CXC into the CAPE or CSEC results.

Dr Wesley revealed that, to date, CXC had only received concerns from two territories. However, he did not name them.

He said CXC was yet to receive any formal complaints from students.

However, he said students could follow the protocol in place if they wished to have their grades reviewed.

Dr Wesley maintained that the results of this year's exams were in line with results of previous years.

In fact, he pointed out there was an increase in performance this year, with students receiving acceptable grades.

He said this year, 93.25 per cent of students setting the CAPE exam received acceptable grades, which was higher than the previous three years.

With regard to CSEC, Dr Wesley disclosed that 79.57 per cent of students

sitting the exam received acceptable grades, which was also higher than the three previous years.

He contended that those results did not suggest there were any inaccuracies by CXC.

"The overall performance shows an overall improvement in the performance for the region in both CAPE and CSEC. I think the notion that there is widespread achievement of less than acceptable grade is not borne out.

"In fact, this year you have less persons receiving less than acceptable grades of any other period for the last three or four years," Dr Wesley pointed out.

As part of a shortened examination due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students setting this year's exams were graded on a multiple choice exam and their school based assessments (SBAs).

Despite the challenges encountered by CXC, Dr Wesley said he was satisfied with the manner in which his organization had operated.

"Certainly we are very much pleased with the fact that over the year 93 per cent received acceptable grades for the first time as well as CSEC, which had improved performance for the past four years, that's what I'm pleased about," he said.

As a form of protest, students and parents demonstrated outside CXC's Wilkey headquarters this afternoon.

*cont'd from pg 18*

tative to Jamaica, Therese Turner-Jones, said such actions should be temporary to protect economic reform gains. "The most important priority is to make sure interventions are targeted at the sectors and entities that need it most time-bound,

and well defined. Similarly, they should be structured to provide near-term cash-flow relief, which will be most beneficial to companies trying to remain in operation through the crisis."

Turner-Jones said: "When the economy recovers, a vibrant corporate sector must

continue to make its fair contribution to Jamaica's public finances, so that the Government can return to its objective of increasing investment in critical infrastructure, and improving social outcomes in areas such as health, education, public security, water and sanitation, etc.

"This will be crucial to raise productivity, growth, and living standards."

In May, Clarke told Parliament that the Government was facing a revenue shortfall of \$81 billion, a situation compounded by recent projections for the economy to contract by up to 10 per cent.

## Trump-Biden debate could spark stock volatility

(Reuters) Some U.S. stocks could face more volatility next week as President Donald Trump and rival Joe Biden face off in their first debate ahead of a November election that betting services currently view as almost a coin flip.

A strong performance in Tuesday's debate by Biden, who currently has a modest lead in betting odds and polls, might boost stocks related to global trade and renewable energy, while a perceived debate victory by Trump could benefit fossil fuel and defense companies.

The first of three scheduled debates comes at a fraught moment on Wall Street.

The S&P 500 tumbled around 10% from record highs in recent weeks before paring some of those losses on Friday, as investors worry about a prolonged recovery from the coronavirus and uncertainty related to the Nov. 3 presidential vote, including the possibility of a delay in announcing a winner.

If one candidate emerges stronger on Tuesday, "the debate could be an individual stock and sector play," said Jack Ablin, Chief Investment Officer at Cresset Wealth Advisors.

"For example, I think life under Biden would be a lot



*Yard signs supporting U.S. President Donald Trump and Democratic U.S. presidential nominee and former Vice President Joe Biden are seen outside of an early voting site at the Fairfax County Government Center in Fairfax, Virginia, U.S., September 18, 2020*

simpler for Apple than life under Trump," Ablin said, referring to Trump's trade conflict with China.

Individual stocks and other assets have been susceptible to market moves as a result of debates, even as broader markets have generally shrugged them off.

The Sept. 26, 2016 debate between Trump and Hillary Clinton, for example, sparked a 2% surge in the Mexican peso, as well as moves in oil, gold and Treasuries, according to a University of Michigan and Dartmouth College study.

Many investors view Biden as more likely to

raise taxes, and see a second term for Trump, who favors deregulation, as better for the overall stock market. At the same time, a Trump win could spark concerns over ramped up tensions between Washington and Beijing.

With expectations of a delayed vote count, the options market shows investors are bracing for volatility in November and December. Trump declined on Wednesday to commit to a peaceful transfer of power if he loses, and said he expected the election battle to end up before the Supreme Court.

Adding to political uncertainty, betting websites are offering odds giving Biden a 53% chance of beating Trump, down from as much as 61% in early August, according to RealClearPolitics. A Biden win could boost the S&P 500 by about 1% the following day, while a Trump re-election would push the index down about 4%, according to an analysis by Cornerstone Macro based on a statistical comparison of recent asset prices and election betting odds.

"A possible interpretation of this result is that markets

*cont'd on pg 21*



## Modi offers India's COVID-19 vaccine capacity to 'all humanity'

(Aljazeera) Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has pledged at the United Nations that his country's vaccine production capacity would be made available globally to fight the coronavirus crisis.

"As the largest vaccine-producing country of the world, I want to give one more assurance to the global community today," Modi said in a prerecorded speech to the UN General Assembly.

"India's vaccine production and delivery capacity will be used to help all humanity in fighting this crisis."

Modi made the pledge even as India is struggling to contain the spread of the virus, which has already infected 5.9 million Indians and left more than 93,000 dead nationwide – the third-highest fatality toll in the world.

Modi said India was moving ahead with phase three clinical trials – the large-scale trials considered the gold standard for determining safety and efficacy – and would help all countries enhance their cold chain and storage capacities for the delivery of vaccines.

Modi said in August that India was ready to mass-produce COVID-19 vaccines when scientists gave the go-ahead.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has been pushing for a "people's vaccine" that is available and afford-



*Prime minister says India moving ahead with third-phase trial before mass production as country's cases, deaths surge.*

able everywhere and expressed concern on Tuesday that some countries were "reportedly making side deals exclusively for their own populations."

"Such 'vaccinationalism' is not only unfair, it is self-defeating. None of us is safe until all of us are safe. Everybody knows that," Guterres told the General Assembly.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison told the General Assembly on Friday: "Whoever finds the vaccine must share it."

"Some might see short-term advan-

tage, or even profit," Morrison said. "But I assure you to anyone who may think along those lines, humanity will have a very long memory and be a very, very severe judge."

"Australia's pledge is clear: if we find the vaccine we will share it. That's the pledge we all must make," Morrison said.

Pope Francis told the UN on Friday that the poor and weakest members of society should get preferential treatment when a coronavirus vaccine is ready.

cont'd from pg 20

have increasingly priced in a Biden win and view the alternative as posing some risks, possibly stemming from potential escalating trade tensions or similar factors," Cornerstone Marco wrote.

Gullane Capital Partners

LLC, a hedge fund in Memphis, Tennessee, is focusing on each presidential candidate's likely effect on specific stocks it owns, rather than what each candidate might mean for Wall Street as a whole, said Managing Partner Trip Miller.

"Biden is good for some

of our businesses, like solar, and Trump is better for some of our other businesses that benefit from lighter regulation," Miller said.

UBS in a report this week predicted that a second term for Trump would have little effect on healthcare. On the other hand, a Biden victory

would lead to only modest changes, rather than a major overhaul of health insurance, even if Democrats took control of the Senate.

"We believe that the rhetoric on changes to healthcare policy exceeds the reality of what can be accomplished," UBS analysts wrote.

## Fighting erupts between Armenia, Azerbaijan; 16 killed

(AP) Fighting erupted anew Sunday between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces over the disputed separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh and a top territorial official said 16 people were killed and more than 100 wounded, while Azerbaijan's president said his military has suffered losses.

Armenia also claimed that two Azerbaijani helicopters were shot down and three Azerbaijani tanks were hit by artillery, but Azerbaijan's defense ministry rejected that claim.

Heavy fighting broke out in the morning in the region that lies within Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since 1994 at the end of a separatist war. It was not immediately clear what sparked the fighting, the heaviest since clashes in July killed 16 people from both sides.

Nagorno-Karabakh authorities reported that shelling hit the region's capital of Stepanakert and the towns of Martakert and Martuni. Armenian Defense Ministry spokesman Artsrun Hovhannisyan also said Azerbaijani shelling hit within Armenian territory near the town of Vardenis.

Artur Sarkisian, deputy head of the Nagorno-Karabakh army, said that 16 people were killed and more



*In this photo provided by the Azerbaijan's Presidential Press Office provided on Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev gestures as he addresses the nation in Baku, Azerbaijan*

than 100 wounded. It wasn't immediately clear if the figure included both soldiers and civilians. Earlier, the Armenian human rights ombudsman said a woman and child had been killed in the shelling.

Another Armenian Defense Ministry spokeswoman, Shushan Stepanyan, said "the Armenian side" shot down two helicopters and hit three tanks.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev ordered martial law be imposed in some regions of the country and called for a curfew in major cities.

In a televised address to the nation, Aliyev said that "there are losses among the Azerbaijani forces and the civilian population as a result of the Armenian bombardment," but didn't give further details. He also claimed that "many units of

the enemy's military equipment have been destroyed."

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov "is conducting intensive contacts in order to induce the parties to cease fire and start negotiations to stabilize the situation," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama, chairman of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, called on the sides to stop fighting. The long-unsuccessful negotiations for resolving the territory's status has been conducted under OSCE auspices.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian on Sunday said the country could re-examine whether to recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as independent. Such a move would likely obstruct further negotiations.

The news was harshly received in Turkey, a close ally of Azerbaijan.

Turkey's ruling party spokesman Omer Celik tweeted: "We vehemently condemn Armenia's attack on Azerbaijan. Armenia has once again committed a provocation, ignoring law." He promised Turkey would stand by Azerbaijan and said, "Armenia is playing with fire and endangering regional peace."

Turkish presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin also condemned Armenia.

"Armenia has violated the cease-fire by attacking civilian settlements ... the international community must immediately say stop to this dangerous provocation," Kalin tweeted.

Mostly mountainous Nagorno-Karabakh — a region around 4,400 square kilometers (1,700 square miles) or about the size of the U.S. state of Delaware — lies 50 kilometers (30 miles) from the Armenian border. Local soldiers backed by Armenia also occupy some Azerbaijani territory outside the region.

At the Vatican, Pope Francis said Sunday that he was praying for peace between the two countries, urging them to "accomplish concrete deeds of goodwill and fraternity" to reach a peaceful solution through dialogue.



# South Africa has the world's worst youth unemployment; Giraffe wants to change that

(CNN Business) "I really count myself blessed to have a job right now," says Akhona Zondani.

After months of being ignored by recruiters in her home country of South Africa, the economics graduate began using a recruitment website called Giraffe. Compared to the experience of being "ghosted" by other recruiters, Zondani says getting guidance every step of the way was like "a breath of fresh air," and she eventually landed a job with an insurance company.

Zondani knows she is one of the lucky ones in the current economic climate. South Africa was already in recession and struggling with record-high unemployment before the pandemic.

In 2019, it had the world's highest youth unemployment rate, at 56%, and Covid-19 has led to even more job losses.

But Giraffe believes it can help those hit the hardest: unskilled and less educated workers. Founded in 2015 by Anish Shivdasani and Shafin Anwarsha, Giraffe has automated the recruitment process, from sourcing candidates to screening them.

Where jobseekers would usually apply for positions on paper or in person, they can now upload their résumé to the online platform, and an algorithm will match them with relevant jobs.

Giraffe was built for mobile devices, which is how most South Africans primarily access the internet, explains Shivdasani. Smartphone penetration in the country has doubled from 2016 to 91% in 2019. Of those with internet access, around 60% use a mobile



device.

While other job portals and recruitment agencies often target high-skilled jobseekers, Shivdasani says Giraffe's focus is primarily on entry to mid-level jobs.

"We really target the mass segment of the market," Shivdasani tells CNN Business. "We define it as salaries between 3,000 and 25,000 rand (\$177 to \$1,470) a month."

This income range represents about two-thirds of the total South African workforce, he adds.

Shivdasani and Anwarsha met while working as strategy consultants in the telecoms industry. Shivdasani says he had always dreamed of building a platform to solve social problems in South Africa. In brainstorming where to start, he realized that unemployment was at the core of many of them. "We felt that unemployment is probably the biggest problem in South Africa," he says.

Giraffe is completely free for jobseekers, explains Shivdasani, and instead charges businesses to post jobs on its platform.

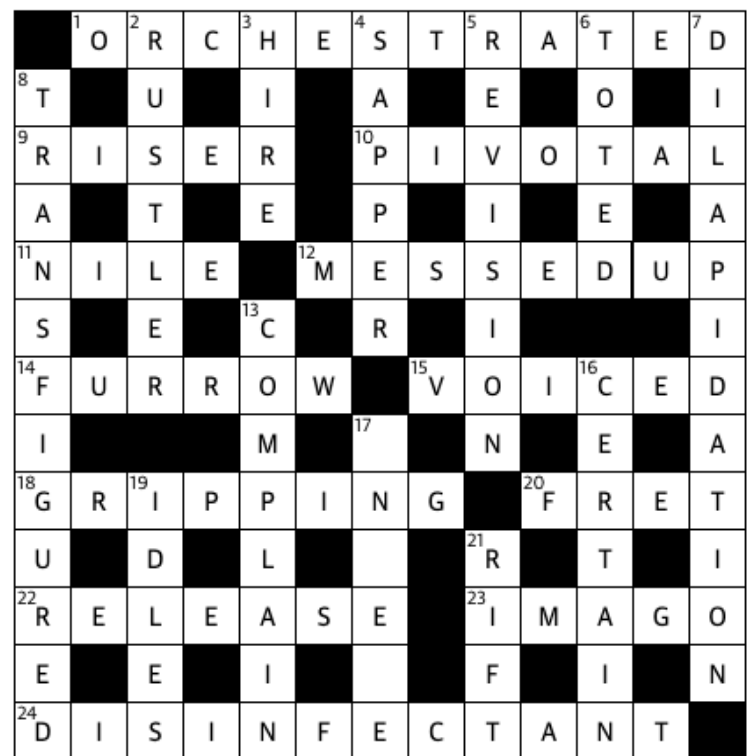
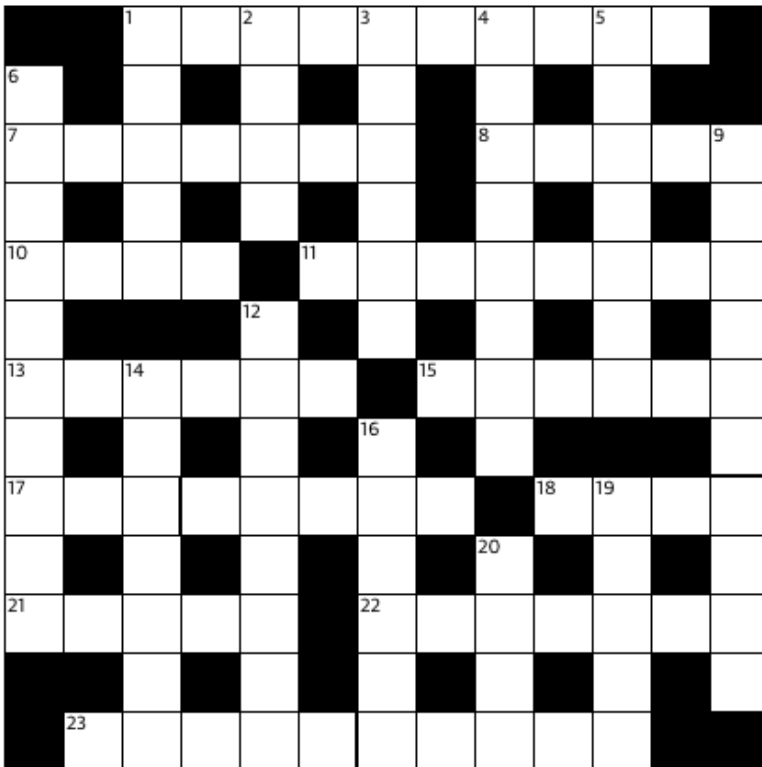
It has worked with about 3,000 businesses and currently has one million jobseekers registered on its platform. Shivdasani estimates Giraffe reaches approximately 10 million jobseekers through partnerships with Facebook (FB) and Google (GOOG).

Giraffe has even developed a voice note function that lets companies listen to applicants answering questions before inviting them to interview. "It's a combination of matching, screening and voice clips, which sets us apart from other platforms," Shivdasani says.

This year the company received a grant from UNICEF, which it will use to build a content portal to arm jobseekers with career advice. Giraffe declined to disclose the amount of funding it received.

## LEISURE

## QUICK CROSSWORD



## Across

- 1 Tiny (10)  
 7 Check — lizard (7)  
 8 Tiny amount (5)  
 10 Tall grass plant that grows in water (4)  
 11 Munificent (8)  
 13 Religious (6)  
 15 Ship's officer looking after the passengers (6)  
 17 Pursue (3,5)  
 18 Couple (4)  
 21 Corpulent (5)  
 22 Inexpensive ornament (7)  
 23 With a short distance to the target (5,5)

## Down

- 1 English preacher and metaphysical poet, d. 1631 (5)  
 2 Dog of mixed breed (4)  
 3 Annoyed (6)  
 4 Refined (8)  
 5 Saviour (anag) — assorted (7)  
 6 Sponsor and manager of public entertainments (10)  
 9 Jerboas — British 7th Armoured Division, 1940-58 (6,4)  
 12 Loss of hearing (8)  
 14 Clot (7)  
 16 Shackle (6)  
 19 Foot-leg connector (5)  
 20 Indication (4)

## CARTOON CORNER

## Garfield







## DAILY HOROSCOPE

**ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19):** Your phone might ring more than usual this weekend. Find creative ways of having good times with friends. Enjoy your increased popularity but avoid taking undue risks with money.

**TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20):** Practical ideas and sensible solutions might flood your mind. This is an excellent time to discuss your objectives and create a game plan. You can receive sound and useful advice from relatives and professional people.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Clear thinking is in play, making this a good day for frank discussions and brainstorming sessions. You and a partner can easily come to an amiable agreement about the handling of joint resources or family investments.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Demonstrate your flexibility by reconsidering old goals. Some things you have abandoned, such as a desire to put a certain idea into action, might now be possible. You and loved ones can make powerful plans.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Your pragmatic handling of life's little problems sets you free to enjoy life's little pleasures. Be logical about facts and figures but kind and generous with people. Numbers don't care how you treat them, but people want affection.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Put your passion for excellence to good use by getting involved with constructive activities. Your ability to make wise decisions is enhanced this weekend, making it a good time to evaluate your long-

term life objectives.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Your acceptance into new circles may put you in a position to make valuable connections. Think up several excellent strategies to complete homework or job assignments.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Return to the pursuit of treasured past activities with a fresh perspective. Kid stuff can be fun even as an adult. The stars are ripe for romance, but you can make headway with career aspirations, too.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** It may be time to analyze your banking activity. You are clear-thinking and observant about your allotment of resources, making it simple to juggle bills and expenditures. Develop a budget that offers big benefits.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You have the wisdom and vision to develop purposeful plans. Write down your inspiring ideas and plot a course that will make your life more fulfilling. Buy useful items that bring beauty into your surroundings.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Blow the dust off the chess set or find the basketball and shoot some hoops. You may be attracted to activities that require strategy and a high level of accuracy. A family member may offer some insightful and valuable ideas.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20):** Think about catching up on sleep. You may rest easy once you and a partner or co-worker have come to an agreement about an important issue. Together you have better judgment than usual and will be able to make wise choices.

# LA Lakers win Western Conference finals, advance to NBA finals

LeBron James helped the Los Angeles Lakers reach the NBA finals for the first time in 10 years with a 117-107 victory over the Denver Nuggets.

It gave them a 4-1 win in the best of seven series.

They were led by a triple double from James who scored 16 of his 38 points in the third quarter and added 16 rebounds and 10 assists.

The 35-year-old has now reached the NBA finals for the 10th time. This is the first time with the Lakers.

The Lakers will now face the Miami Heat, who defeated the Boston Celtics 4-2 in the Eastern Conference finals.



Lebron James

## England secure Twenty20 series against Windies



England cruised to a 20 run victory over West Indies to take an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five match Twenty20 series in Derby.

Nat Sciver's 82 from 61 balls was the standout performance as England made 154-6 on a sluggish pitch with Shamillia Connell taking 2-13.

West Indies could only

muster 134-5 as England secured a comfortable win at the Incora County Ground.

It was an improved performance with the bat by West Indies who rarely looked comfortable chasing in all three matches.

Dottin cracked 63, and Glen picked up 2-18.

The fourth match takes place today.

**PLEASE  
HELP ME FIND  
MY HOME!**



This dog apparently left its yard because of the recent thunderstorms. Unfortunately, the dog was not microchipped and we are unable to identify the owner.

If you know this dog, please contact the  
**HUMANE SOCIETY AT 461-4957 FOR DETAILS.**

Please remember, during storms and fireworks



## Leicester City put five past Manchester City

Jamie Vardy scored a hat trick as Leicester City inflicted a remarkable defeat on Manchester City to go top of the Premier League.

Despite going behind to a superb fourth minute strike by former Foxes midfielder Riyad Mahrez, the visitors responded in stunning fashion.

Vardy levelled with a penalty before the break after he had been fouled by Kyle Walker, and he then sealed his second treble against Pep Guardiola's side from the spot, after he had cleverly turned home Timothy Castagne's cross to make it a 2-1 lead.

James Maddison scored for the first time since 1 January when he curled home a stunning fourth for Leicester.


Although Nathan Ake pulled one back with his first goal since a £40m summer



move from Bournemouth, a third Leicester penalty, this time converted by Youri Tielemans because Vardy had already gone off - complet-






ed a memorable afternoon for Brendan Rodgers' Foxes, who have started a top-flight season with three successive wins for the first time.

In contrast, Guardiola was suffering his worst home defeat as City boss, with his team now in the bottom half of the table.




## TOUCH LINE


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# Sports

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
**POINTX PRESS**  
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

MONDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2020

## Antigua and Barbuda could benefit from TTFA negligence

FIFA's patience with the former leadership of the Trinidad and Tobago Football Association (TTFA) ran out last Thursday.

Last week, the world's governing body on football suspended the TTFA with immediate effect and until further notice.

The announcement came following the failure of the former TTFA president, William Wallace, and his United TTFA partners, Clynt Taylor, Sam Philip, Susan Joseph-Warrick and Keith Loy, to meet the FIFA deadline of 3pm on Wednesday 23rd September to provide evidence that the claim against FIFA in the Trinidad and Tobago High Court had been withdrawn.

Wallace provided an affidavit two minutes after the September 23 deadline asking for the case to be withdrawn but included in it multiple allegations that FIFA had coerced him and his colleagues into withdrawing.

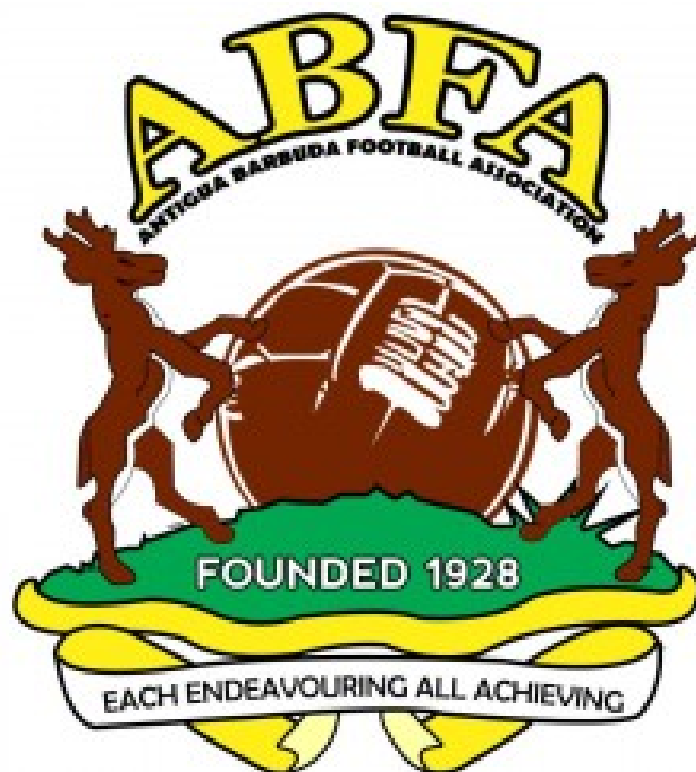
Under those circumstances, it is highly unlikely

that a judge would grant a withdrawal.

Meanwhile, Concacaf has noted FIFA's decision to suspend the Trinidad and Tobago Football Association (TTFA). The matter was discussed during an emergency meeting of the Concacaf Council last Thursday.

At that meeting a number of decisions were agreed to. For the purposes of the 2021 Gold Cup draw, scheduled to take place today at 8pm ET, Trinidad and Tobago will be drawn in the preliminaries as planned, however, they will only participate in the competition if the suspension imposed on the TTFA is lifted by FIFA by 5:00pm ET on December 18, 2020.

The Antigua and Barbuda Football Association, as the next highest ranked based on their 2019 Concacaf Nations League performance, will replace TTFA in the Gold Cup Preliminaries if the suspension is not lifted by the designated time.



Competitive football has not been played on the island since sporting activities were brought to a halt on March 13, 2020. All teams and players have been inactive and the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association now has to decide the way forward after the majority of its members voted against resuming the 2019/20 domestic season.

The membership will meet on Thursday to discuss the way forward.

Meanwhile, uncertainty remains among the local

football fraternity over the likelihood of football resuming this year. The ABFA's hands remain tied until the go ahead is given by the Ministries of Health and Sports.

Questions are also being raised over the future of the national team and the inclusion of its players who are based abroad given the difficulties associated with travel during the coronavirus pandemic.

Presently the national team does not have a head coach, but the ABFA says there are a number of applicants from whom a coach will be selected by the end of the year.

# DEWS

Editor : Everton Barnes, Published by Pointville Communications, Lower North Street, St. John's, Antigua Tel:-1-268-562 4989, Editor: editor@pointville.ag

Advertisement: sales@pointville.ag, Reporting: news@pointville.ag